CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1279
7 September 1994

Original: ENGLISH

PROHIBITION OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Statement by Poland on behalf of the Eastern European Group

On behalf of the Eastern European Group I should like to make the following statement concerning the question of negotiations on a ban of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Eastern European Group wishes to express to the Special Coordinator its appreciation of the dedication and perseverance with which Ambassador Shannon has been seeking to discharge the responsibilities that were entrusted to him in the Presidential statement at the outset of the current session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Eastern European Group is grateful to Ambassador Shannon in particular for his efforts which have resulted in two important findings: first - that there is consensus among CD members that this body is the appropriate forum to negotiate a non-discriminatory multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and second - that there is agreement, in principle, on the establishment of an appropriate Ad Hoc Committee.

The Eastern European Group is disappointed and concerned that, despite the remarkable meeting of minds in the Conference on Disarmament, an agreement on a negotiating mandate and on the actual establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee has proved elusive.

Bearing in mind that consensus General Assembly resolution 48/75 L is at the origin of the efforts to negotiate a cut-off treaty, the Eastern European Group is confident that the window of opportunity created by this resolution will not be closed. We, therefore, lend our firm support to the request that the Special Coordinator continue his consultations in the time ahead. We wish him every success in that effort and we pledge to him our full cooperation.

The members of the Eastern European Group are determined to spare no effort to see negotiations commenced as soon as possible on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and international and effectively verifiable ban of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Certainly no less can be expected from other CD members who joined in the consensus on United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/75 L.